

munities, possibly Armstrong county farmers have never been used to going to church on a week day, morning or afternoon, that this move came upon them in the sense of an innovation. I would be slow to attribute their failure to come to absolute indifference or positive opposition because they did come in the evenings over muddy roads thru dense darkness, over hill and dale, (some walking from two to three miles) in goodly numbers, and manifested that proverbially kind and hospitable spirit so characteristic of the members of the Brethren church where ever one finds them.

I can assure the reader that the writer is not sour or disappointed over his experience among the Armstrong county brethren, and he believes that good was done by the effort made. The attention given to the speakers was warm and inspiring. I have simply referred to the day-session defect that a remedy might be found. Possibly it would be better for only a limited number of workers to attend any one convention and then only hold evening sessions but continue them for a whole week thus make sure of reaching a larger number of people with all the topics programmed and arouse a whole community rather than the few that attended the day sessions.

I trust the brethren and sisters of the state will make these conventions a subject of prayer and study so that they may become a regular feature of our work; we need them, I feel confident that the Glade Run church will pay her missionary quota this year, and I believe that every other church where one of these conventions is held will do the same. Just think what an effect such a result would have upon our state work, to say nothing about general and foreign missions. It will pay to make the effort

JACOB C CASSEL.

#### Trans-Missouri Flashes

It is more safe to trust God than human reason.

Faultfinding is fruitless for good.

O prejudice thou art a monster.

O revenge thou art a cruel tyrant

O jealousy thou art a fiend

Superstition is the offspring of ignorance.

We should think before we conclude.

Neither age nor youth should be the standard for efficiency in the pulpit.

Back up your conclusion as to methods by sound sense.

Human culture is often only skindeep while spiritual culture is heartdeep

"Grumbling is quarreling with God"—D. L. Moody.

Wit is all right when judiciously used. Otherwise it is a nuisance.

I am glad that mercy is God's chief attribute in dealing with me. Otherwise my case would be hopeless.

Art, science, literature, eloquence and all moral and intellectual culture and training give power for good to the pulpit when encircled by Jesus the Christ for protection.

Good works are a result, and not the cause in the great plan of salvation. See Eph 2:8, 9, 10.

"Of grace, free grace alone I boast."

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

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#### Church Report, 1900

Below is given the report of the churches of the Brethren as reported to me. It is but just that it should be said that it is a partial report. However, we believe it to be the most complete yet submitted to the church. However, we desire to take no more credit for that fact than we deserve. Our thanks and the thanks of the church in general are due the pastors and church officials who supplied the figures. I wish the report was complete. But from what has been gathered we may almost exactly determine the numerical strength of the church. As stated at Conference, if all the congregations had reported and all the scattered members not having a church home where they reside could be counted, we are safe to say that the number would be rather beyond than below the 13000 mark.

When we remember that all these have been gathered during the past fifteen or twenty years, besides many who have gone to their long home, surely our people have not been idle. And when it is remembered that many of our preachers have had to make a part and some of them all the living for themselves and families, it certainly reflects credit on the zeal and power of these same preachers.

Again, when one looks at the financial side of the question there is reason to congratulate the laity on their noble efforts. Church houses, during these short years, to the value of \$232,450, has been built most of which had to come out of the pockets of the members, besides other church property such as parsonages and real estate worth about \$25000. And while this does not seem much beside the wealth represented by these thirteen thousand members, it must be remembered that most of them came from churches whose policy did not require much sacrifice financially to the members.

To my mind, the survey which these statistics have given me of the church, we are in a "breathing spell" in the church's life. The old preachers many of them, at least, have tired in the harness, and are resting. The vigor of hope which marked the first few years, of the life of the organization

has been succeeded by the listlessness on the part of some which seems chronic but which really is, we believe, just the settling into the quiet and steady work which wins. The twilight of two centuries is upon us,—the fading twilight of the one, and the opening dawn of the other. And in this time there is stillness and rest, but the broad daylights of vigorous day is at hand. A new vigor from the Lord should and will fall upon his waiting servants. Our pulpits must sound forth the old message of a Savior's hate of iniquity and love for sinners. And the church must work.

- 1 Congregations reported, 173
- 2 Churches owned in fee simple, 176.
- 3 Churches owned in part, 18.
- 4 Number of places where services are held outside of the church, 75.
- 5 Number of parsonages, 8.
- 6 Membership of these congregations, 12,727.
- 7 Number of men and women are in a ratio of 65 to 100. That is, there are 100 women to 65 men.
- 8 Young men reported as members, 1,079.
- 9 Revivals held during the year, 123.
- 10 Number of accessions, 997. (1) By baptism, 704. (2) By letter, 102. (3) By relation, 101. Net gain during the year, 5.1 per cent.
- 11 Lost by death, 92.
- 12 Lost in all other ways, 374.
- 13 Preaching services, 29 monthly, 66 semi-monthly, 28 weekly.
- 14 Average attendance, 77 2-7.
- 15 Prayer meetings, 68 have and 52 have not.
- 16 Sister's Society, 90 have and 38 have not.
- 17 Of these 78 are S. S. C. E. and 9 are not.
- 18 Number of members, 1,775.
- 19 Number of Sunday-schools, 142.
- 20 Young Peoples' Society. 55 have and 67 have not.
- 21 Membership, 1,790.
- 22 Value of church houses, \$232,450.
- 23 Value of parsonages, \$10,960.
- 24 Value of all other church property, \$23,735.
- 25 Pastors' salary, \$25,958 by 105 congregations. Eleven pay no salary.

J. L. GILLIN.

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